

**We Claim:**

1. An automated document publishing system comprising:  
a user interface for managing a document;  
a memory having data stored thereon, said data including at least one of a content library, structural rules, deployment specific data, or deployment specific business processes;  
a processor for automatically assembling an active edition of the document based on said data stored in said memory;  
whereby a proof of said document is generated from said active edition; and  
whereby said document is published when said proof is approved.
2. The system according to claim 1, wherein content in said content library is arranged as a plurality of components, said plurality of components being enabled to be shared by a number of documents.
3. The system according to claim 1, wherein said document is a structured document comprising a number of elements, each element providing structural information or referring to a component stored in said content library.
4. The system according to claim 1 further comprising an issue generator for generating a number of issues associated with said proof prior to approval of said proof.
5. A method for automatically publishing a document comprising the steps of:  
assembling an active edition of said document from at least one of a content library, structural rules, deployment specific data, or deployment specific business processes;  
editing said active edition using a user interface;  
generating a proof from said active edition;  
reviewing said proof; and  
publishing said proof.
6. The method according to claim 5, wherein said step of reviewing further comprises editing said active edition used to generate said proof so as to generate a new proof for review.

7. The method according to claim 5, further comprising the step of generating a number of issues associated with said proof, wherein a user has to address said number of issues before said proof is published.

8. A version controlled content library comprising a number of components having content associated therewith, wherein each of said number of components has a number of versions associated therewith.

9. The version controlled content library according to claim 8, wherein said number of versions are foreign language translations of the components with which said number of versions is associated.

10. The version controlled content library according to claim 8, wherein said number of versions are customized for specific locations.

11. The version controlled content library according to claim 8, wherein said components are shared by a plurality of documents.

12. The version controlled content library according to claim 8, wherein said components are enabled to be edited by a user and said user, through the use of a user interface, can apply the edited components to said document, all future documents, all archived documents, or all documents.

13. The version controlled content library according to claim 12, wherein an audit trail of all edits made to said components are stored.

14. A structure bar describing a conceptual and organizational structure of a document; said structure bar comprising:

- a container representing a section of said document;
- a component associated with an element in said document in said container;
- a number of handles, each handle associated with a single container or component, said handle is used to manipulate said container component.

15. The structure bar according to claim 14, further comprising a hybrid tree diagram wherein the user may navigate said document being edited.

16. The structure bar according to claim 14, wherein said structure bar enforces document structure rules and markup syntax.

17. A virtual structured document comprising:  
structural elements for building a structure for said virtual structured document; and  
content elements for defining locations in said virtual structured document to place  
pointers to components residing in a content library,  
whereby said virtual structured document is assembled based on at least one of  
structural rules, deployment specific data, or deployment specific business processes.

18. The virtual structured document according to claim 17, further comprising  
required components, wherein said virtual structured document can not be approved for  
publication unless said required elements are in said virtual structured document.

19. The virtual structured document according to claim 17, wherein the system  
identifies the candidate components for use in said virtual structured document based on at  
least one of context rules, deployment specific data, deployment specific business processes,  
or component properties.